PROF. K.K. TEWARY: I will give you the targets. So far as Maruti is concerned, we have been trying our level best. I will give the project report, the figures of indigenisation and what we have achieved and what we propose to achieve in the fifth year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is exactly what he wants. Come on. Come on.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY: The weighted average indigenisation in the project report for the car and the van during first year of production was 31 per cent. We have achieved 19 per cent in 1984-85. In 1985-86 project report target was 42 per cent and we have achieved 27 per cent. In 1986-87, the target was 57 per cent and we have achieved 46 per cent.

Now, there is a snag in this. So far as Maruti is concerned, we have almost reached the target of 20 per cent in in-house indigenisation during the last year. The ancillary industries have not come up to our expectations because they were largely oriented to producing components for old technology based production units in the country. They have tried to upgrade their technology. The Government has also taken steps. For example, there is delicensing in the auto ancillary sector. Then, Maruti has gone out of its way in providing financial support to ancillaries and in giving them technology support. Therefore, I would like to inform the House that by the end of 1988-89, i.e. the fifth year of our production, Maruti would have achieved the project report target of 95 per cent. I can inform this to the House.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: There are the other two questions.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY: About the cost pattern he was talking about, I would say that Maruti has not gone into the market for raising resources. There are items which are highly prized and there is always a demand. People naturally deposit money in advance. To say that we have gone into the market for raising funds or resources is not founded on truth. Therefore, I have not distorted any truth.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: It is not a question of truth. I am asking you a question. Have you taken into consideration the interest payment before arriving at your profit?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is the Government practice.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY: I have done that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is one more question you have not answered. The technology is the latest and the production is also increasing. Why is the cost not coming down?

PROF. K. K. TEWARY: The cost should have been down if there was achievement of total target of indigenisation. If we would have achieved the target, then the price should have been down. Since we have not been able to achieve the indigenisation targets in toto, in full, this is not therefore, reflected in the price structure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question; Question No. 164.

Complaints against LPG dealers

*164. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:†

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints regarding harassment by LPG dealers in the country who insist upon the consumers to purchase stoves from them;

(b) what is the policy of the Government in this regard;

(c) in how many cases did Government take action against erring LPG dealers during the last three years; and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri V. Gopalsamy.

(d) what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A customer is at liberty to purchase the LPG stove from any source subject to the condition that the stove carries ISI certification. During 1984 to 1986, the oil companies have taken action in about 830 cases in which such complaints were received.

(d) Appropriate action in each case of complaint will continue to be taken by the oil marketing companies.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the LPG customers have to deposit Rs. 500 while they file their application to get the connection and they have to wait for many months to get a connection and no interest is being paid. But when the customer goes to the dealer, the dealer insists that he should purchase the LPG stove from him alone. Otherwise, Sir, they will delay the connection or they do not supply the refill in time. And the Minister says that they have taken action. May I know from the hon. Minister as to what form of action he has taken against those erring dealers, whether it was in the penalty form or suspension? What form of action have you taken?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Sir, various types of actions are taken including warning letters, suspension of release of new connections, termination of distributorship. Such action is taken on merit in each case.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Ministry sanctioned one LPG connection to one Assistant Professor, Mr. Rajeshwar, in Faridabad in the 1st week of February, when the LPG dealer, Mrs. Jengjit Enterprises, Faridabad, refused the connection unless he purchased the LPG stove from the dealers. Then he made a written complaint to the Oil Corporation of India on the 24th February. I endorsed the complaint. I wrote a letter to the hon. Minister when the order of the Oil Corporation asking the dealer to check up the LPG stove and give the connection was contemptuously turned down by the dealer. This is a high handed action of the dealer. May I know from the Minister what action he has taken?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Sir, I am unable to answer this. But I will definitely enquire into what you have written and what action has been taken. Strict action will be taken.

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, one of the main reasons that there are complaints against these LPG dealers is that the commission which the Oil companies are giving to them is much too low, and if they operate on that commission, they do not earn enough. I would like to know if this question has been examined and would the Government consider revising the amount of commission for LPG dealers.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Sir, this question has already been examined. And on 19th January, we have increased the commission from Rs. 3.62 to Rs. 5.30. Simultaneously we have issued them new guidelines to improve the consumer service.

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहती हूं कि क्या सरकार की तरफ से ऐसा कोई नियम है कि एक घर में बाप और बेटे, दो नाम से गैस नहीं हो सकती है, दो कनेक्शन्स नहीं दिये जा सकते हैं चाहे उनके राशन कार्डस अलग-अलग हैं, दूसरा क्या दो कनेक्शन का रोल, जो एजेंट इंस्पेक्टर होता है उसके डिसक्रीशन पर निर्भर होता है ?

श्री ब्रह्मदत्त : माननीय सदस्या को मैं इतना बता सकता हूं कि राशन कार्ड से ताल्लुक नहीं है, अगर रसोई घर अलग-अलग हैं दोनों के, बाप बेटे में बनती नहीं है या सास और बहू में बनती नहीं है तो दो कनेक्शन जरूर देंगे लेकिन अगर रसोई घर एक है तो एक ही कनेक्शन से चलना चाहिए ।

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASANT: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether there are complaints about the dealers who extract gas from the cylinders and fill up other cylinders which are sold in the black market. Are there any complaints with the Minister and if there are what are the steps being taken to check this corruption?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Sir, there were a few complaints like this and now in the new bottling plants a mechanism has been evolved that gas cannot be extracted.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether it is true that there are a lot of complaints to the effect that these dealers who supply LPG cylinders to customers take two to three days to supply refills and at times when home delivery is not made by them still they damand these charges. These complaints have been brought to the notice of the Minister several times and this has been my personal experience also. I would like to know what action is being taken to deal with these types of complaints.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: It is true that we receive complaints because there are 122.5 lakh consumers and 3,067 distribution points. Whenever we have received complaints we have issued instructions to the oil companies to take strict action and prompt action and I have also tried to help in this process.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Mr. Chairman, Sir it is true that these dealers insist to buy these stoves from them. This is no doubt a fact. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether in order to curb this tendency and put an end to this malpractice the Government would consider a proposal that these stoves will be sold only by H.P., Burma Shell and other petroleum companies. Such a measure will generate some resources with them and this type of malpractice will also be removed.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Sir, there are 160 companies which produce these hot plates with 181 Markings. There is no dearth of hot plates and their distribution points. There is also no obligation to buy them from a dealer supplying LPG. It is prominently displayed at the distribution centres and advertised in papers and whenever there are any complaints we take action.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, while I associate myself with all the complaints and alleged allegations that have been made by other Members as such, it has been my personal experience that where dealers have not been able to extract gas from LPG cylinders, they have lent out the cylinders without issuing it against an order and they got back the cylinder half-full and then issued it against a regular order. There have also been occasions when some moisture has been noticed coming out of cylinders, and water near the valve. Now, this is a serious thing because whenever we examine a death in the kitchen, we also view it with suspicion as a dowry death. I want to know whether the Ministry has examined the problem of lending of gas cylinders to customers unauthorisedly and then issuing these half-full cylinders to regular customers against orders. Will the Minister devise a mechanism of putting a pressure-gauge or meter so that we know when we receive the cylinder whether it is full or not. In case of dowry deaths has it been seen whether it was a proven defective cylinder or was manoeuvred to be so. These are the questions I want the Minister to answer.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: About lending of cylinders and partly being consumed unauthorisedly by other people, if we receive such complaints we take action. But it cannot be a general thing. We will have to examine the position. About dowry deaths the police will have to establish whether it was a dowry death or due to other factors. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Petroleum cannot do that. It is the sphere of Minister of Home Affairs.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: One of the malpractices of the LPG dealers is very very recent. The Government has hiked the price of LPG for industrial purposes and for hotels and that has nearly doubled the price. In the last one month we have seen a new phenomena, namely, that LPG dealers are selling consumers cylinders at a price above the consumer price to the industry. And black-marketing has been started. In view of the experience of the Government for the last one month, will the Government reconsider the policy of dual pricing so that there is no black-marketing.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: There is another method of checking up this complaint. We have issued a list of commercial users to each distributor. They cannot supply any gas cylinders to anybody else—other than those who are included in that list.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: They are getting the cylinder at Rs. 70/- each.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Whenever a complaint is received, definitely strong action will be taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Power deficit in the Country

*165. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:
SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the power deficit in 1985-86 in each of States and Union Territories and the estimated deficit in 1986-87;

(b) the present plant load factor in the country as compared to that of 1977; and

(c) the estimated power deficit left at present, if the 1977 PLF is maintained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) The State-wise deficit during 1985-86 and 1986-87 is given in the enclosed statement laid on the Table of the House. (See below)

(b) The Plant Load Factor during 1986-87 was 53.2 per cent whereas it was 50.9 per cent in 1977-78.

(c) The present plant load factor is better than that in 1977-78 and on the basis of 1977-78 PLF the deficit would have been higher.

Statement

State-wise power deficit during 1985-86 *and* 1986-87.

Name of the State	1985-86 Deficit(%)	1986-87 Deficit(%)
1	2	3
NORTHERN REGION		
Haryana	23.3	13.4
Himachal Pradesh	0.4	0.3
Jammu & Kashmir	15.2	11.5
Punjab Inc. NFF	8.9	4.1
Rajasthan	7.4	7.9
Uttar Pradesh	12.2	14.9
Delhi	0.2	—
Chandigarh	3.9	7.2
TOTAL (NORTHERN REGION)	10.7	9.5